

INFORMATIVE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia/Urals)

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SUBJECT 1. Oil Stone Plant at Kivioli, Estonia.
2. Oil Fields in Oktyabr in the Urals.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

Oil Stone Plant at Kivioli, Estonia

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1. The Kivioli oil stone plant was built and installed by the Todt Organization during the German occupation. The machinery is of Siemens, Kabelwerk Oberschoeneweide, etc., manufacture. The plant is comparable in size to the Zeiss plant in Teltow. When the Germans retreated, they were too pressed to do more than blow up half of the factory. In May 1945, the plant had 800 workers, but the complement increased constantly; in June 1946, there were 1,500 workers. The plant processed a yellow-gold stone which was surface-mined. The plant's chemist once remarked that the oil from this stone was of a high grade. Moreover, the stone can be substituted for coal for heating purposes. Source saw ten fully loaded rail tank cars leave the plant daily.
Comment: For additional information on the operations and personnel of this plant [redacted] This plant may be identical with the Eesti Kivioli A.U., formerly the Estonian Shale-Oil Co., Ltd., the largest shale-oil producing plant in Estonia. This plant was founded, not during the German occupation, but in 1932. In 1937 the plant had a daily output of 1,200 tons of shale-oil. The cracking plant had a capacity of up to 10,000 tons of gasoline a year.)
2. The explosives department manufactured explosive cartridges for the mining of the stone. The cartridges weighed 100 grams each. American, Russian, and German explosives in powdered form were used; the powder was ground before it was used in the cartridges.
3. The director of the plant was a Jew, who disappeared one day and was replaced by a Russian. The plant workers were German PWs and Estonians, men and women. The Estonians were loud in their complaints about the Russians, especially since they were paid only one-third the wages under the Russians that they had received from the Germans. The Estonian male workers decreased gradually in number. Their wives said that their husbands had been taken from their quarters by men in trucks, presumably to be taken to their work sites, and had subsequently disappeared. After one year, only about twenty percent of the original Estonian workers' complement remained in the plant; most of these were members of the Communist Party.

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Next Review Date: 1980

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4. Because of the shortage of manpower, source was taken to a small distant factory, which also belonged to the plant but which had suffered heavy damage. He remained there from May 1946 to June 1947. Only the machines and the boilers were left in this plant. This factory employed 600 workers. Here the oil was converted to gasoline. Highest daily production was one tank car.

Oil Fields in Oktyabr (Oktyabrsk)

5. In June 1947, the entire area was cleared of German PWs. A transport of 5,000 prisoners-of-war, some of them from Kivioli and Reval, was shipped to Oktyabr, 120 km west of Ufa in the Urals. Oktyabr is a small village which grew rapidly. On 15 March 1948, when source left Oktyabr, it already had 10,000 inhabitants; upon his arrival in August 1947, it had no more than 1,000. There was no camp; the PWs lived in tents in open country, later in "bunkers". These were 25 m-long, 10 m-wide, and 3 m-high sod dugouts with slanting roofs made of brush and earth and supported by poles.
6. The oil rigs at Oktyabr were built, at first, of wood; later, some were torn down and replaced with iron and steel structures. The rigs operated day and night. A large saw mill on the site supplied the lumber for the drilling rigs. According to the Russians, all wooden rigs are to be replaced with iron and steel rigs. It is planned to transform the area into a "second Baku". The area between Ufa and Oktyabr is to be the center of this region. The rigs were manned by Russian civilians only. No German PWs and no Russian convicts worked on them. There were many Russian convicts in this region; they were housed in barracks and were engaged in road and housing construction. There are two pipe lines. The second pipe line was completed in the summer of 1947. The pipes, about 10 cm in diameter, are buried at a depth of three meters and covered with earth.
7. Rail connection to Oktyabr has now been established. The spur branches off from the main line to Ufa and has a length of 15 km. The engines are fired with coal. One road has also been completed; it measures 12 m in width. The construction of the road is quite primitive, consisting of only one layer of gravel, oiled and rolled. Oil is in general use for heating and illumination in the area. It contains much fat and burns extremely well.
8. The 5,000 PWs from Estonia were placed in five camps of 1,000 each. The Estonian camp number, 7772, was retained. The camp had mail delivery. There were daily readings of Tagliche Rundschau and Berlin am Mittag. There was no political indoctrination. Monitors were charged solely with maintaining order and discipline. The PWs who worked in the gravel pits were paid money for the first time in January 1948. One shift of 60 men received one thousand rubles each. The price of one loaf of bread was 60 rubles. On 15 March 1948, twenty-five percent of the men in source's camp were discharged; five percent were discharged from the other camps.

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